

Agglomeration Economies

ECON 492E, TEAM 3

FERNANDO JIMENEZ, OLGA UNIGOVSKA, HOK HIN NG

Purpose

Develop a methodology and calculate the wider economic benefits of connecting UBC to the region with rapid transit



Benefits from Localization (Graham et al.)

1

Pooling labor
resources

2

Knowledge sharing
and transfers

3

Sharing of
intermediate inputs



Benefits from Urbanization (Graham et al.)

1

Increase in the size
of labor markets

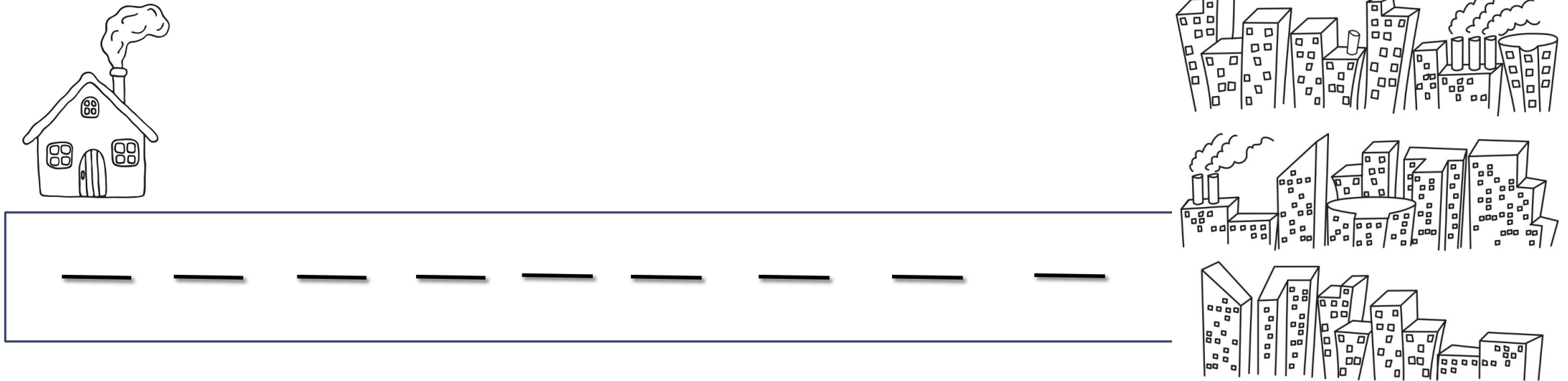
2

Access to more
public services

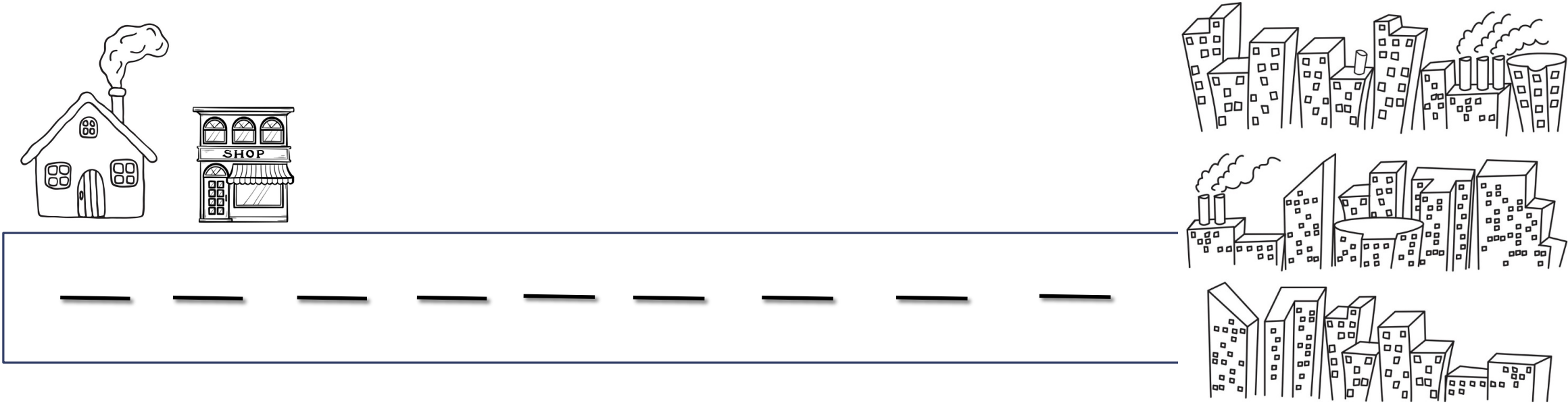
3

Increase availability
in consumption

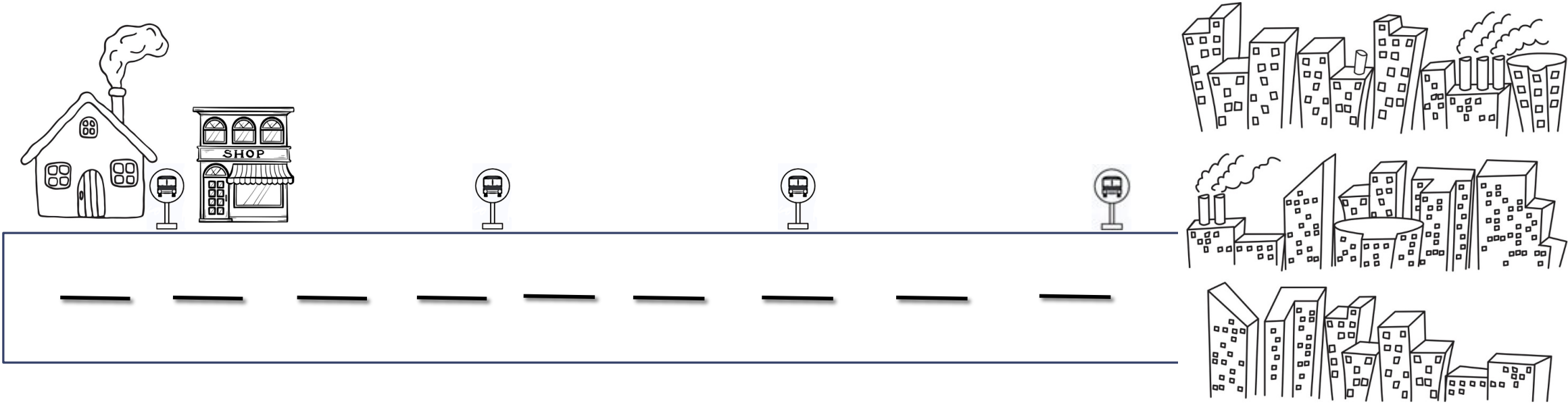
Entrepreneur living in an isolated area of the region



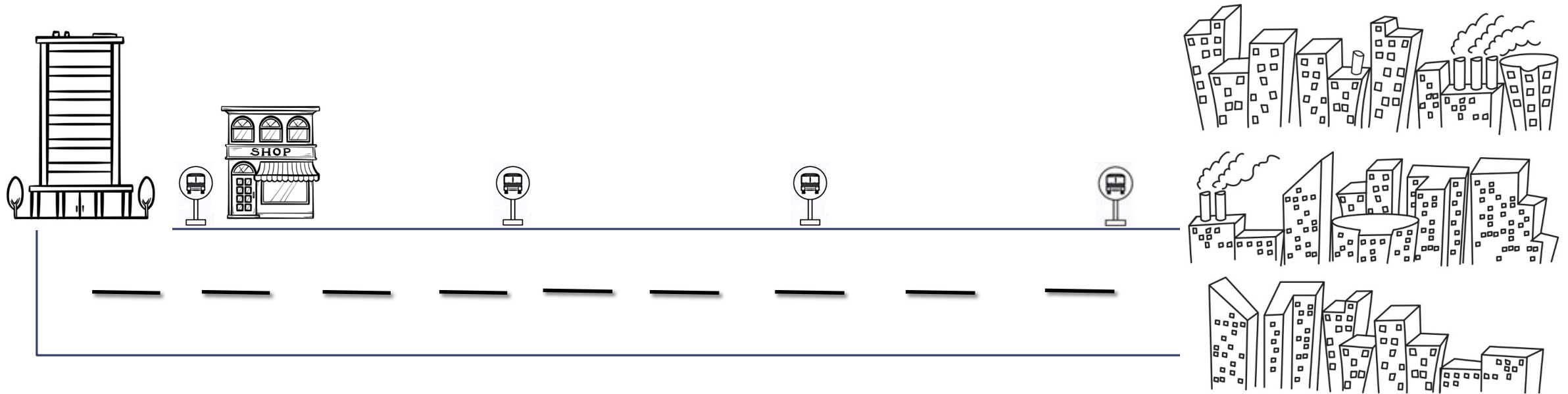
The entrepreneur opens up a business



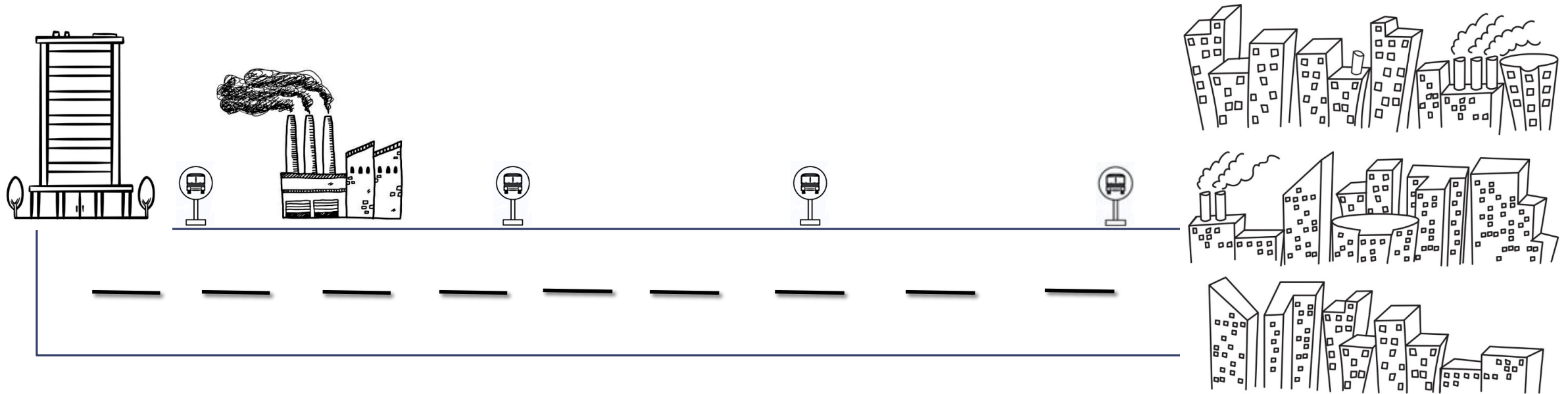
A rapid transit scheme is implemented



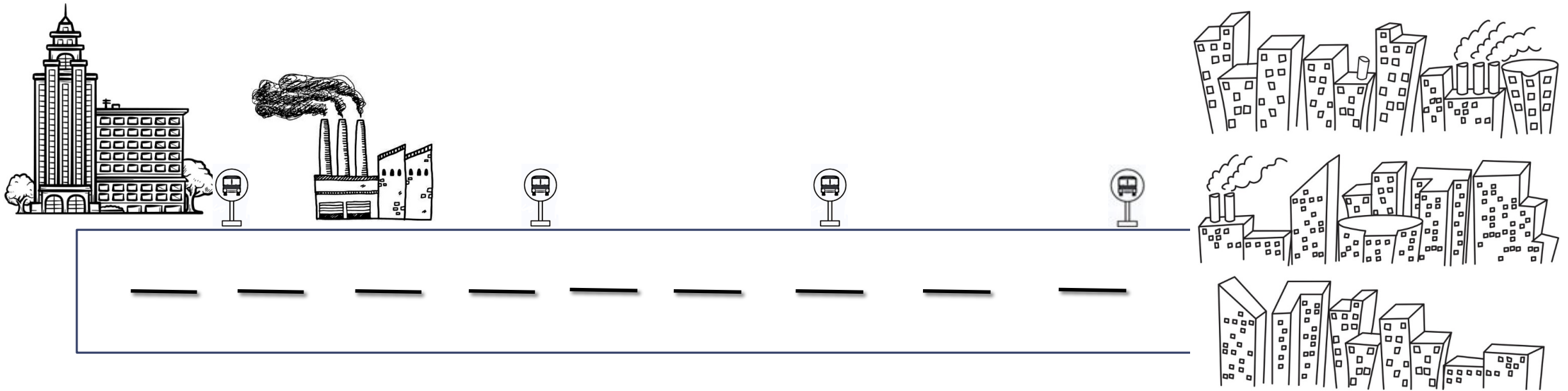
Workers begin to relocate resulting in densification



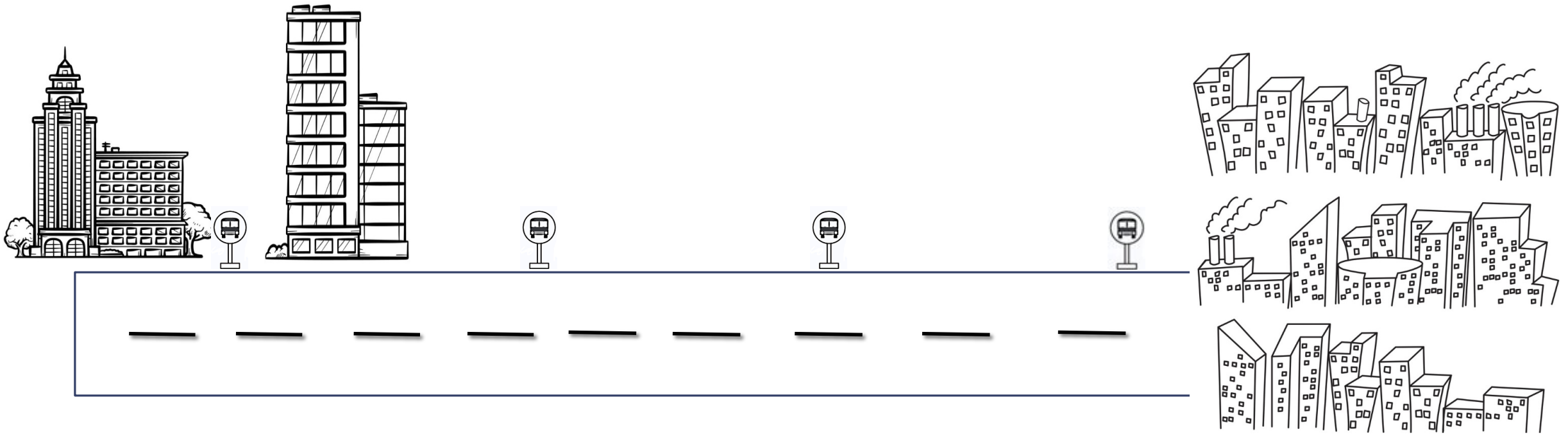
The size of local labor market increases



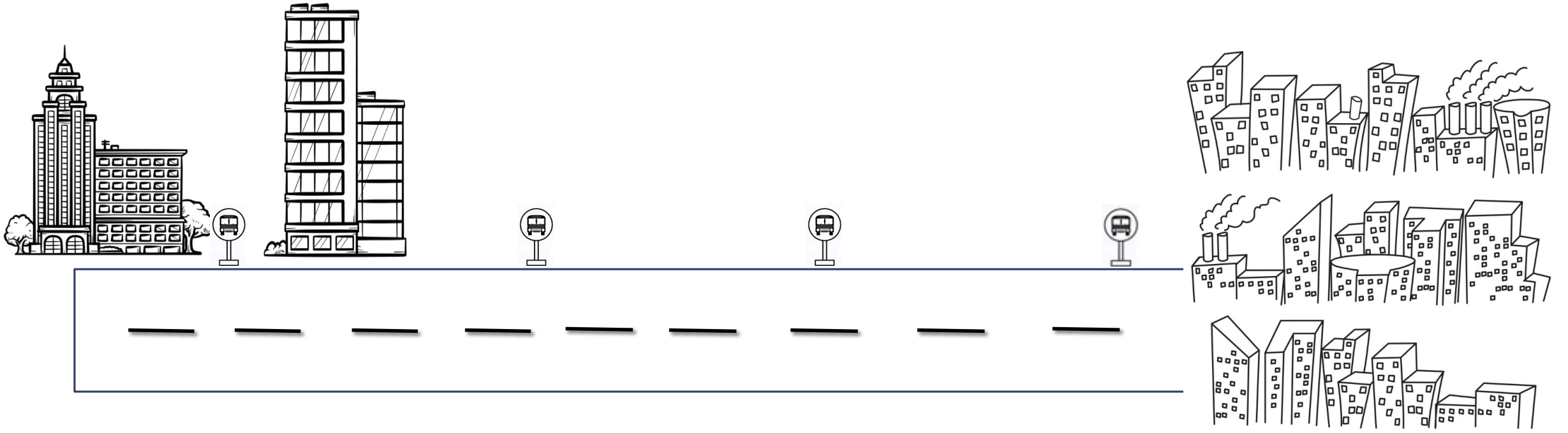
Urbanization economies



Localization economies



Agglomeration economies

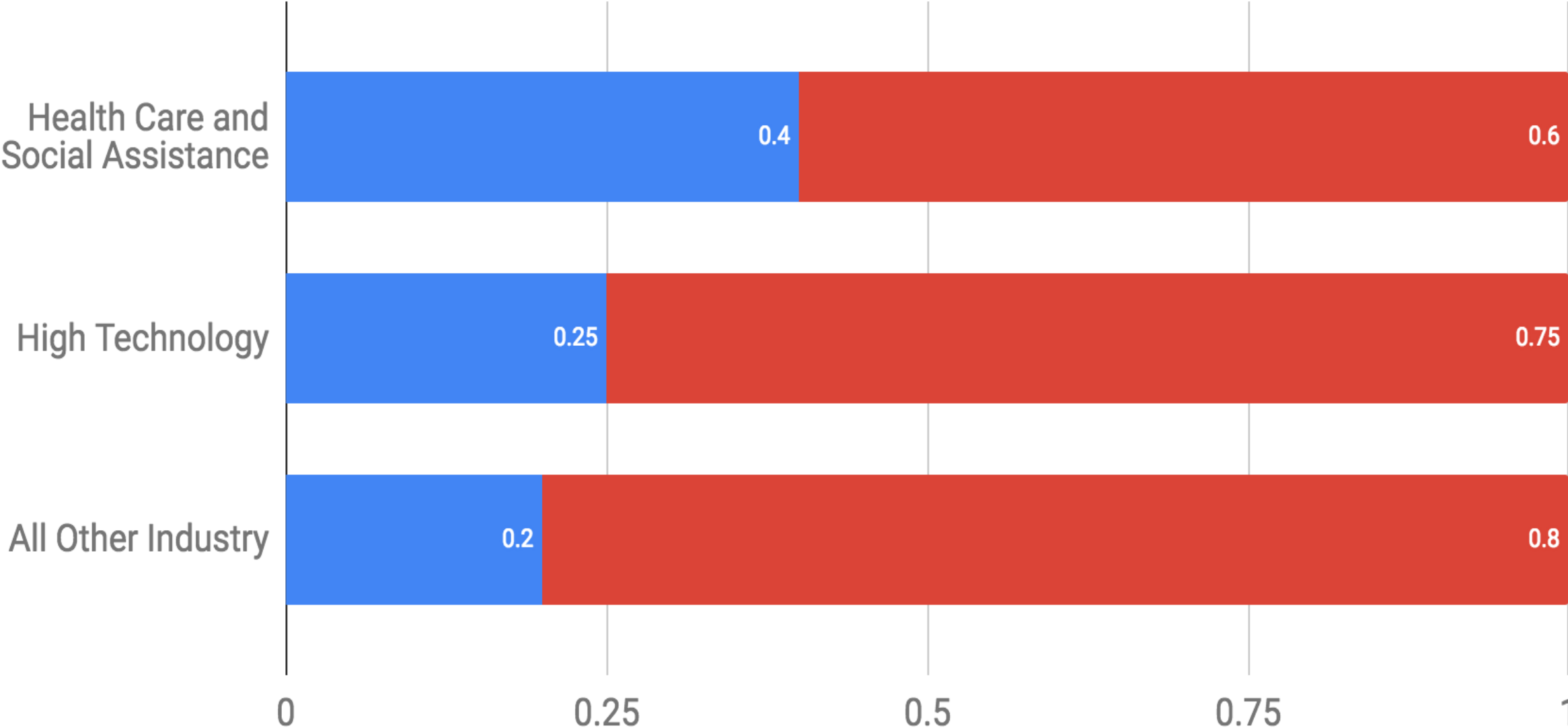


Region of Analysis (UBC-B-C)



Percentage of Vancouver Business Counts Located In The Corridor

Corridor Rest of Vancouver



Cost Benefit Analysis (CBA) on UBC-B-C



- CBA conducted by **TransLink** was a conventional Surplus based computation
- CBA doesn't includes agglomeration localization and urbanization benefits

Agglomeration Analysis On UBC-B-C

- Agglomeration Benefits are Value Added into the CBA
- Finding a number that represents these benefits in UBC-B-C after the potential project
- Isn't an recommendation of the feasibility of the project.



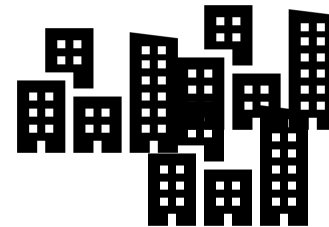
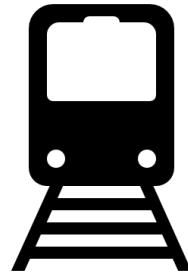
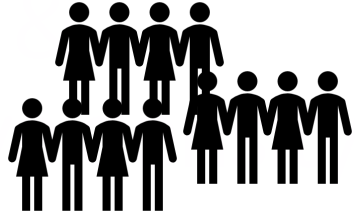
Methodology

1. Calculating the Effective Density
2. Estimating Agglomeration Elasticities
3. Quantifying the Agglomeration Benefits Arising from the Transport Scheme



Calculating Effective Densities

The effective density (ED) represents the proximity between zone area in respect to its employment population.

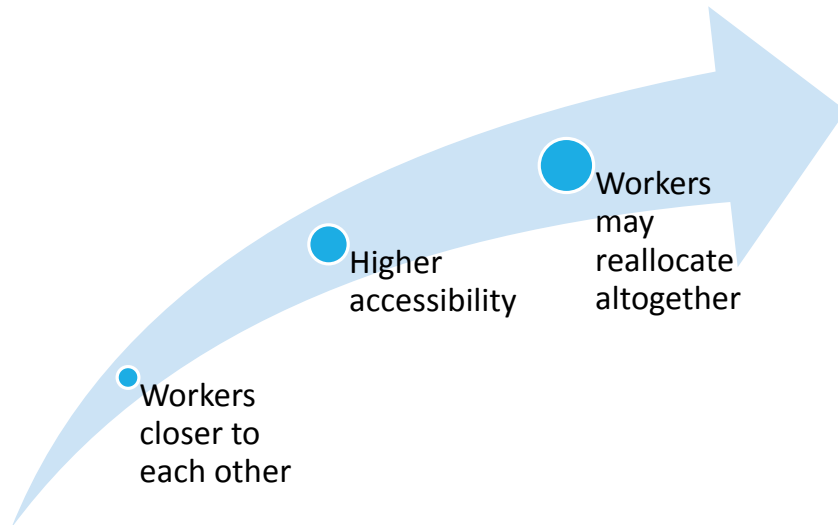


Calculating Effective Densities

Equation:

$$\text{Effective Density} = \frac{\text{Employment Level of a Particular Industry}}{\text{Generalized Travel Costs}}$$

As General Transportation Costs fall...

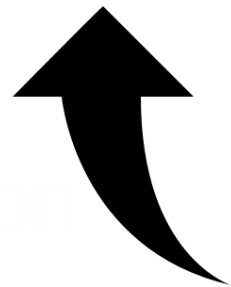
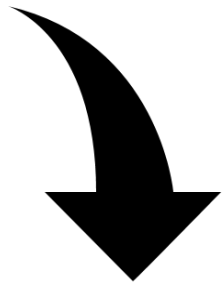


Jobs are brought closer together!

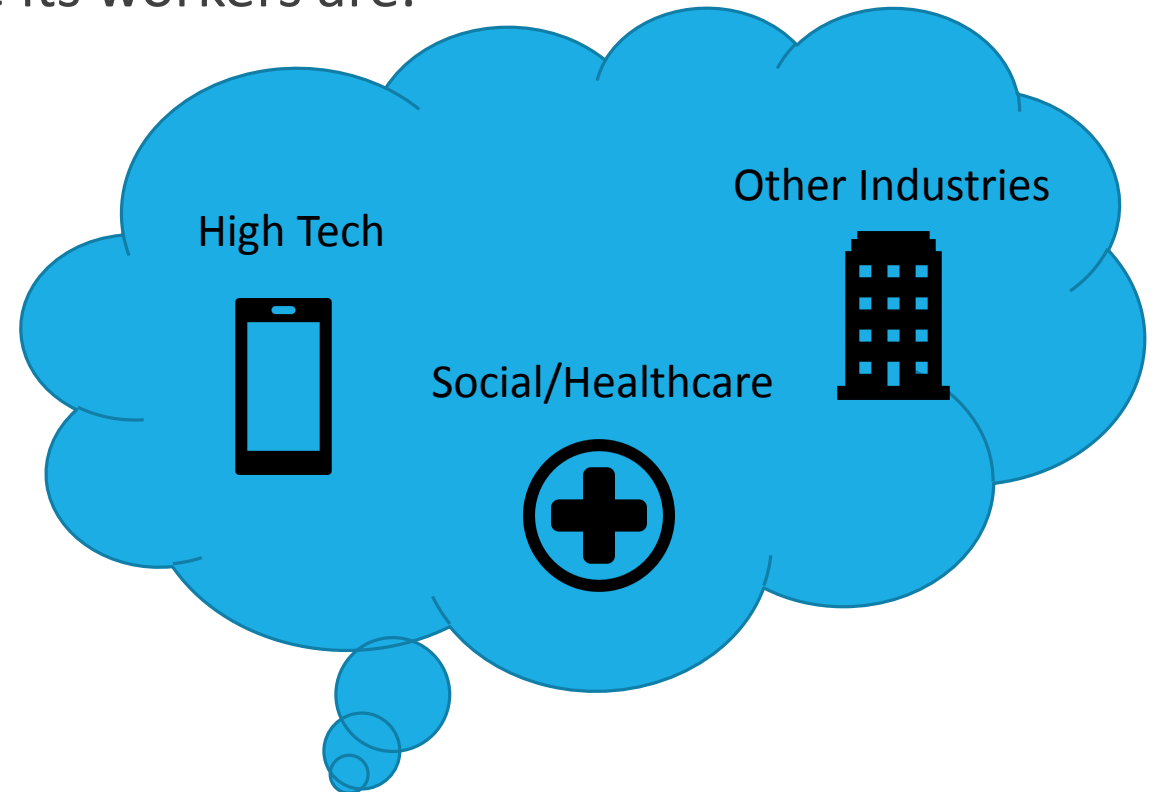
Estimating Agglomeration Elasticities

Agglomeration Elasticities - measure the relationship between how well connected an area is and how productive its workers are.

Generalized costs



Output

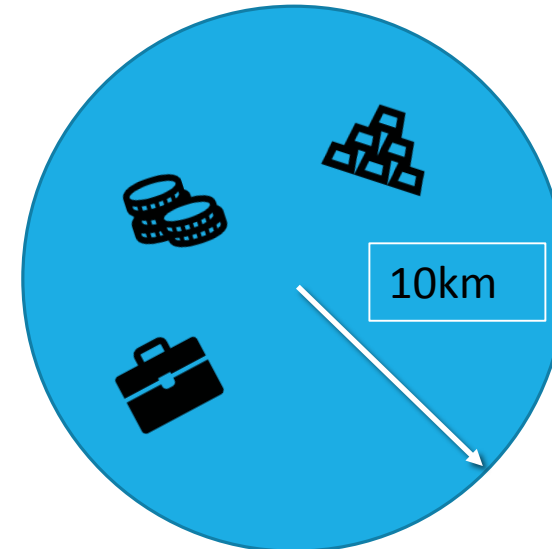
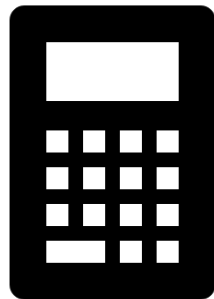


Agglomeration Elasticities

Industry, Category	The Healthcare Industry, Service Industry	The High Technology Industry, Economy Industry	Other Industries
Mean Agglomeration Elasticity (Median for all other Industries)	0.148	0.031	0.028
Range	-0.219, 0.503	-0.8, 0.25	-0.310, 0.3

Quantifying the Agglomeration Benefits Arising from the Transport Scheme

Superzone – a zone containing several lesser zones; a tool to simplify our calculations.

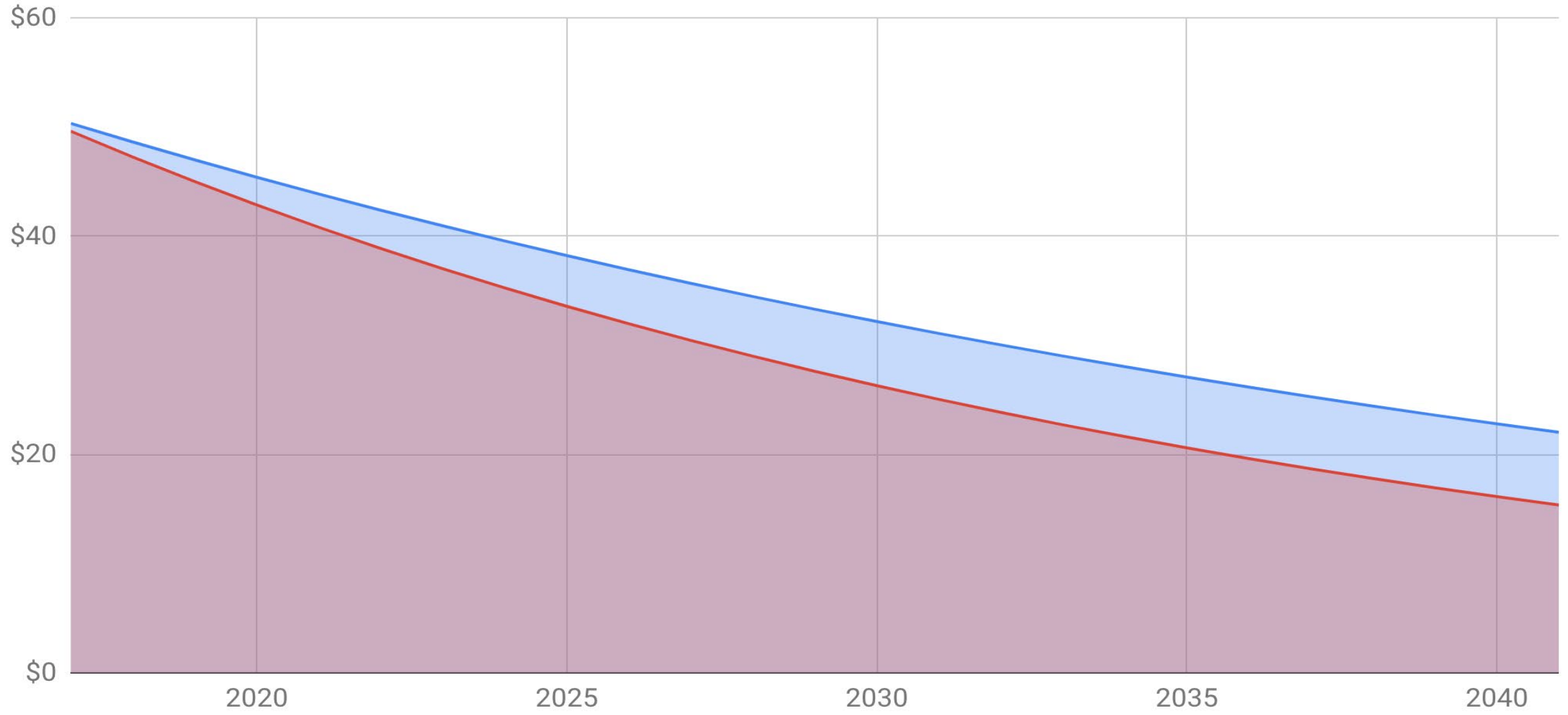


Benefits

\$730 TO \$860 MILLION (\$2016)

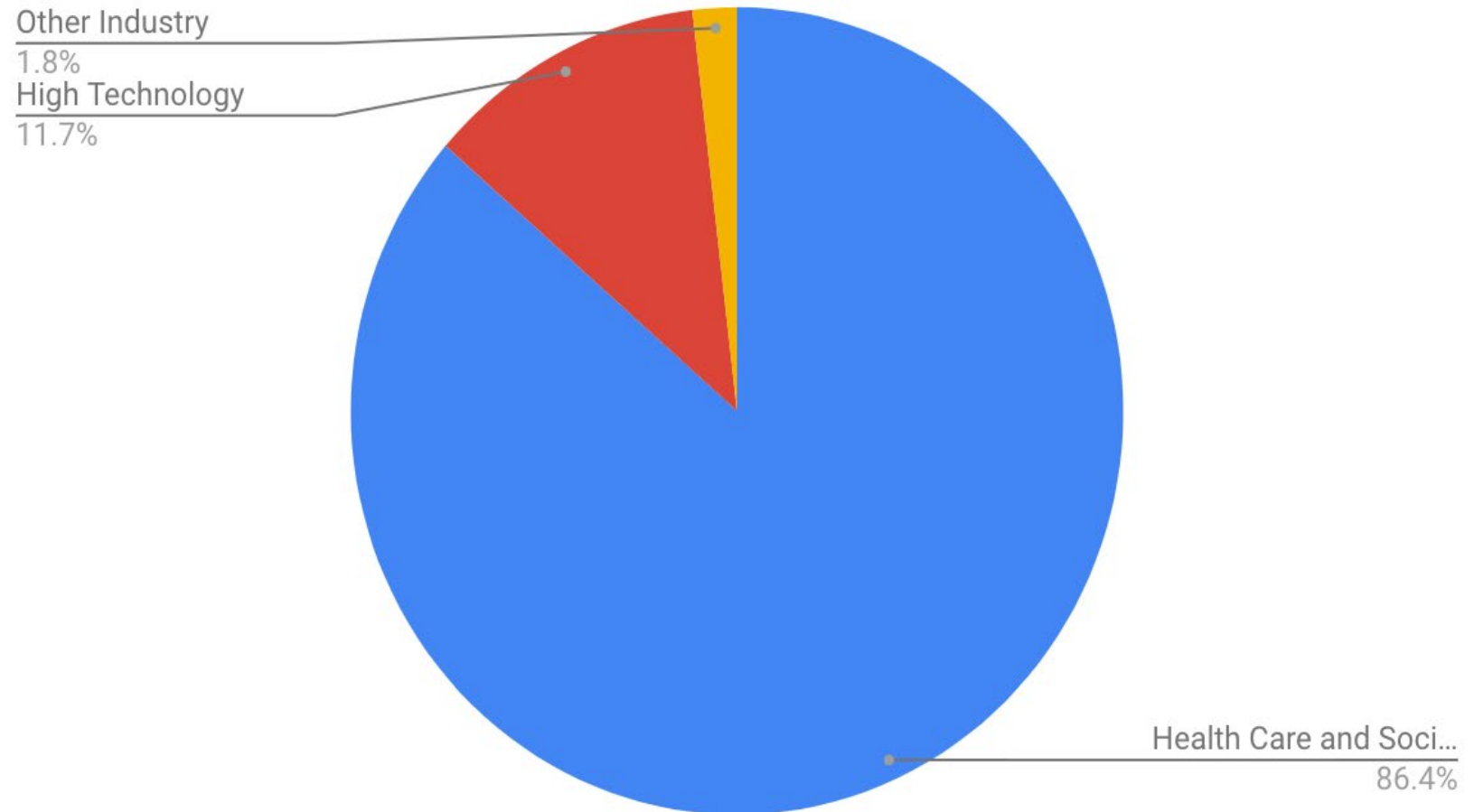
NPV Of Benefits Over Time (Millions)

Discount Rate 3.5% Discount Rate 5%



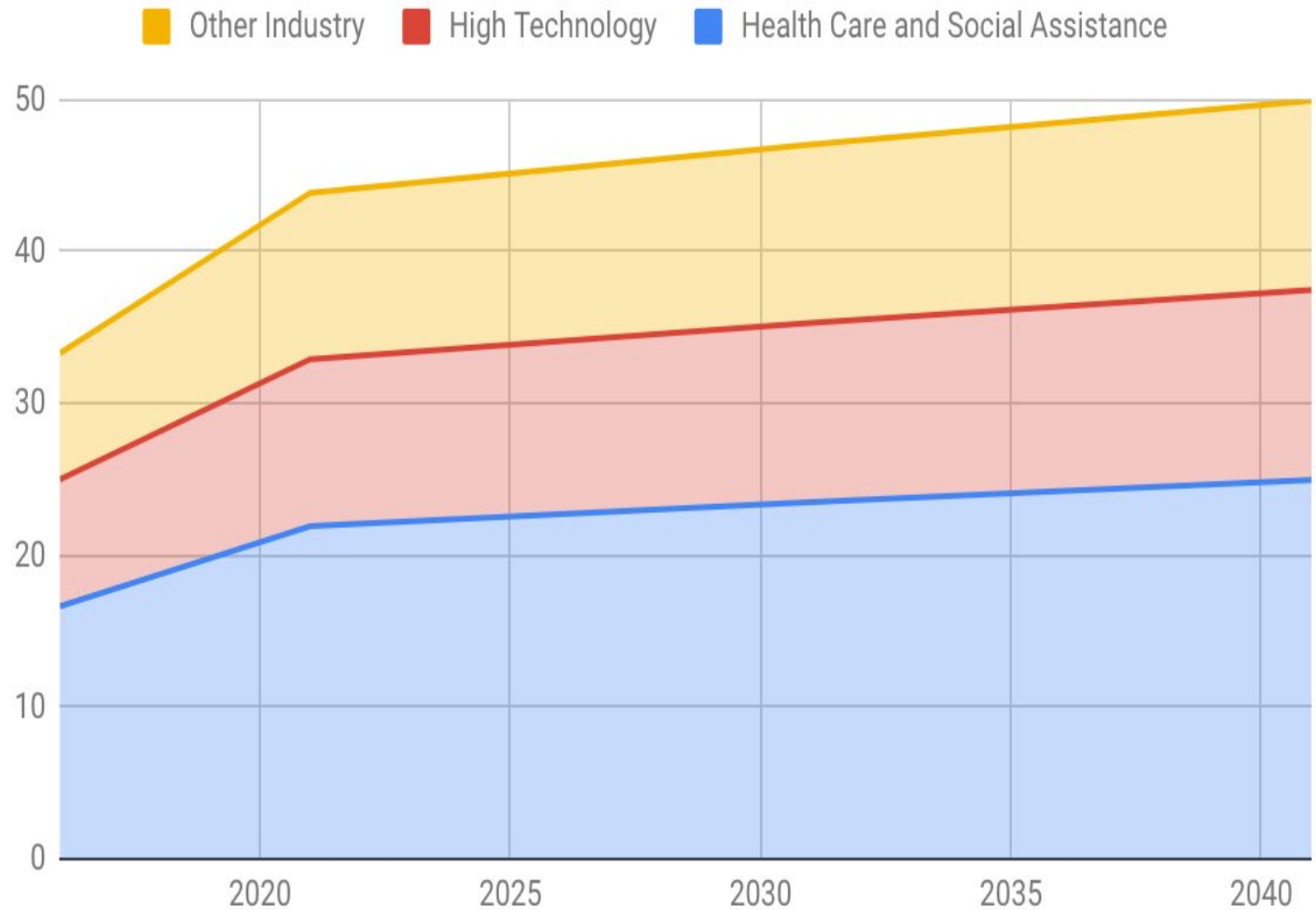
Health Care and
Social
Assistance
Industry

Annual Impacts of Each Industry



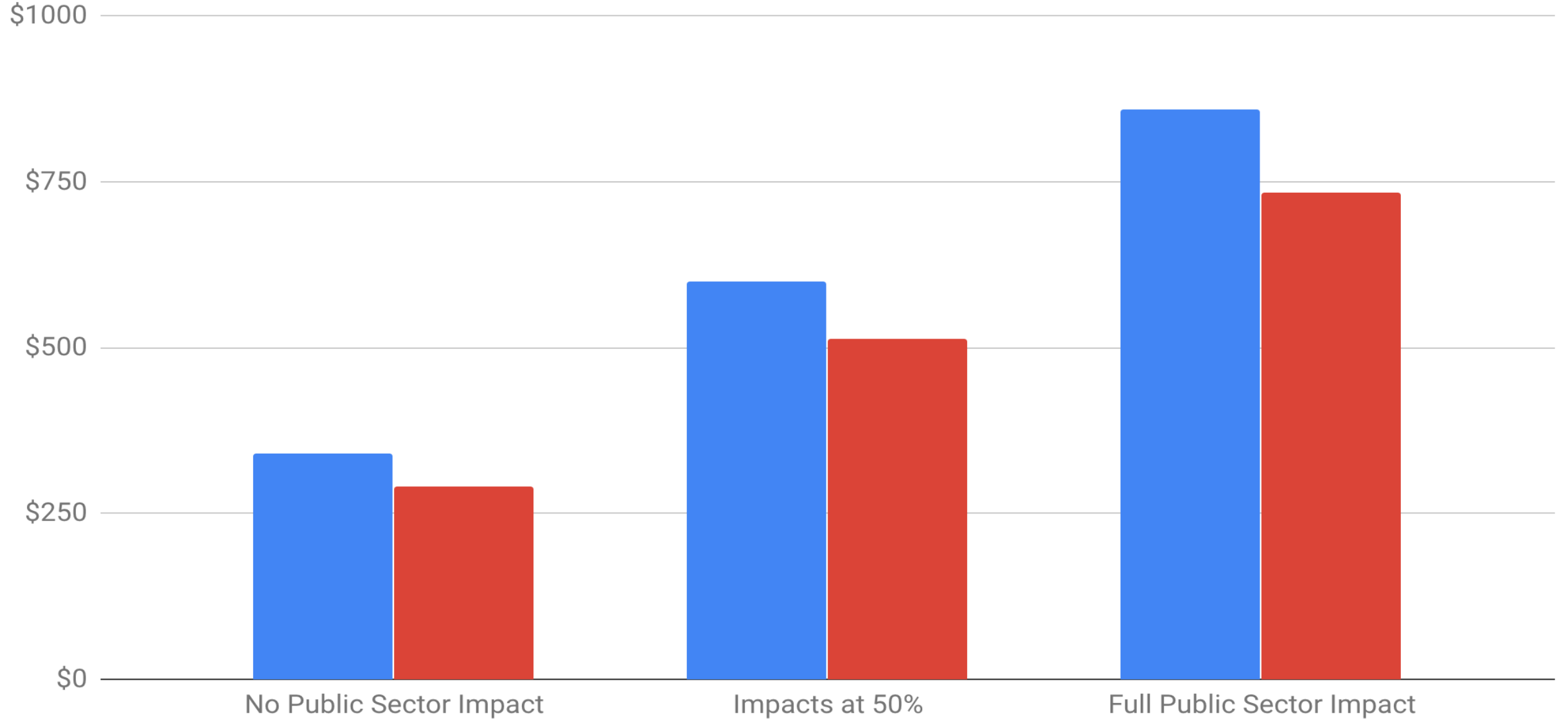
Health Care and Social Assistance Industry

Forecasted Employment Levels (Thousands)



Public Sector Sensitivity Analysis (Millions)

Discount Rate 3.5% Discount Rate 5%



Limitations on Assumptions

- We assumed that Business Count Shares would represent levels of Employment
- We assumed that Generalized Travel Cost wouldn't change over time
- We assumed the Share of industry GDP in BC would be 1:1 with the Share of Industry GDP in Vancouver
- We used a Super zone instead of Traffic Zones
- Agglomeration Elasticity

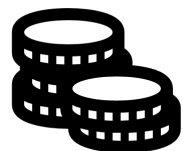


Direction for Further Assessment of Wider Benefits

We recommend to:

- Use *different* agglomeration elasticities
- Look at the agglomeration economies *outside of the corridor*.
- *Not* to use superzone and look at individual sectors instead
- Try and *forecast* changes in generalized travel costs
- Conduct research that focuses on finding agglomeration elasticities that focus on the *public sector*





Thank you for listening!
